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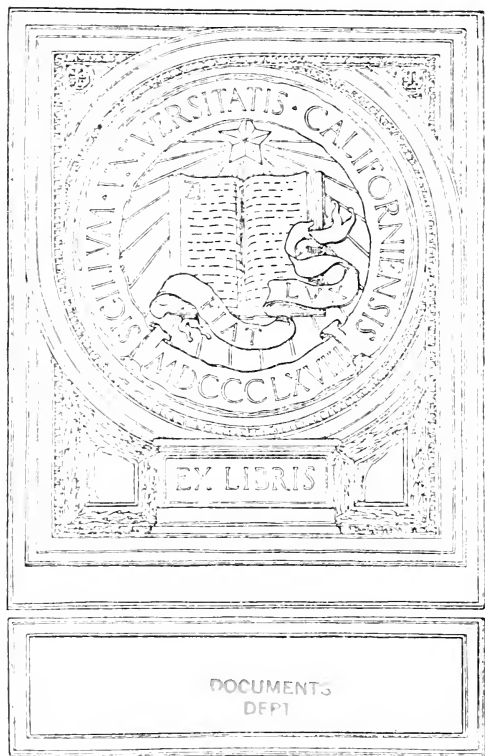
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSIONER
MANILA

THE GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGE



Dependent Children Series
No. 1

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FOREWORD

In response to requests constantly coming in about the Government Orphanage, it was necessary to furnish a more or less complete account of the aims and functions of the same. It is for this reason that this pamphlet is issued which was prepared by Mr. Honorio Poblador, Chief of the Division of Dependent Children.

JOSE FABELLA,
Public Welfare Commissioner.

NOVEMBER 15, 1921.



THE GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGE

I. HISTORY

Early in 1917, a Government Orphanage was established by the Insular authorities at Casa Quinta, very near Manila, on the bank of Pasig River in the municipality of Makati, Rizal. Before the establishment of this Orphanage, orphans and destitute children depending directly upon the Government for their care and support, were placed in private institutions, mostly religious organizations.

The first inmates of the Government Orphanage were the 60 girls transferred from the Hospicio de San Jose on February 12, 1917. Seventy-five orphans were subsequently admitted from the same institution. Other admissions directly from at large followed. Between the periods from November 5, 1919, to March 19, 1920, inclusive, some 41 inmates of the Philippine Orphanage Association, a private organization commonly known as American Mestizo Orphanage were actually added to the number of government wards in the Orphanage when the rights and properties of the said private organization were transferred to the Government. There are at present 226 inmates in the Orphanage besides those in the Boys' Home at Calle Agno, Malate, Manila.

The Orphanage started to operate in an old resident building leased and remodeled for the purpose. The top floor was used as dormitories while the ground floor was utilized for kitchen, dining room, class rooms, and office. The institution has gradually expanded. The Government has constructed up to this time three buildings and a school house in the same site leased for the orphanage, in addition to the old building already mentioned. Much permanent improvements were not made in view of the fact that the Government does not own the site of about 2 hectares that the Orphanage is now using.

As the result of the expansion of the Orphanage, in the building formerly owned by the Philippine Orphanage Association on Calle Agno, Malate, there is operated a home for big boys, who are about to be discharged from the care and support of

the Government and who are allowed to engage in some remunerative work outside of the institution on part time basis. This institution is a sort of a clearing house for the Government Orphanage at Makati, and serves to gradually introduce the boys from institutional life in the Orphanage to the natural mode of living in a community. The boys staying in this place, numbering 26 at present, attend public schools in the city and outside of the institution.

The Orphanage as organized and administered in accordance with the provisions of an administrative order of the Secretary of the Interior did not have a permanent character until the Philippine Legislature enacted Act 2815 on March 4, 1919, creating the Bureau of Dependent Children which, in accordance with the provisions of Act 2988 enacted February 24, 1921, was made a division of the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner.

II. ADMISSION

The Orphanage is for deserving orphans and destitute children of not more than 14 years of age. Admission is however limited to those whose living parents or immediate relatives are not absolutely in a position to support them, as it is not the purpose of the Government to extend institutional aid to those who can otherwise be supported and taken care of by their parents or interested relatives. The idea of limiting admission to those who are absolutely in need of government aid is not to encourage dependency and pauperism which necessarily results from a practice of giving aid to those who are able or capable of earning enough if they would only exert their best efforts in securing something for the maintenance of the children depending upon them.

During the early days of the Orphanage, the authorities of the same were kept busy in convincing many applicants that the institution is not a college as they believed. These applicants came seeking admission primarily for the education of their children. They claimed that they were too poor to send them to school. Whenever application for admission is solely based on this ground, the request is invariably denied as the Government is spending annually millions of pesos just to provide free education in the public schools to the masses. The Orphanage as it has already been stated elsewhere in this pamphlet was established primarily for the care of orphaned and destitute children, who can not expect anything for their support from anybody else except from the Government.

Any one who wishes to apply for the admission of an orphan or a destitute child in the Orphanage can personally or by letter apply at the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner here in Manila, who upon the receipt of the same will cause an investigation to be made in order to ascertain the merit of the case. In making the necessary investigation, such agencies of the Government as the Constabulary, the police, and others are used whenever it is not practicable to have the investigation conducted by a representative of the Orphanage. Once the investigation is completed, the applicant is advised as to whether or not the case is worthy. If the case is worthy but due to lack of rooms it is possible to admit the recommended child to the Orphanage, the name of the child is entered in a waiting list and is admitted to the Orphanage when there are vacancies in the order as its name appears in the said waiting list.

III. DISCHARGE

Once the child is admitted in the Orphanage, it is educated and taught such work as may be of use in its struggle for a living when discharged in order that it may not be a burden to the Government for an indefinite period of time and that it may independently earn its support after its discharge from the Orphanage. To avoid keeping an inmate in the Orphanage except during such period as it is absolutely necessary to care and support for the same, no effort is spared in discharging inmates from the institution. In discharging inmates great care is exercised to absolutely safeguard their interest. No inmate is discharged unless in doing so the same can have better advantages outside for its education and well-being than the Orphanage can give.

From time to time investigation is conducted to find out the moral and financial condition of parents or immediate relatives who have been able to place children in the Orphanage. This is done in keeping with the policy not to care of a child in the Orphanage unless its stay in the institution is absolutely necessary. Once it is discovered that a parent has been rehabilitated to support its child placed in the Orphanage, the same is promptly advised to take out the child.

Whenever parents asked for the discharge of their children from the Orphanage, their request is invariably granted unless of course it is proven that the parent is morally unfit to bring up its child. Children committed to the institution by a court of justice is not discharged in any way without the consent of the committing court.

However excellent is an institution like the Orphanage in its organization and management, it can not take all of the functions of a normal home. A child, being the product of a home, should whenever possible be brought up in a home in order to enable it to enjoy all the influences of the home it is entitled to in its normal development. Accordingly, the Orphanage welcomes any opportunity that may come for an inmate to be placed out with a family either under adoption basis before a court of justice or under guardianship. In this connection no child is ever discharged from the institution in response to a request of an applicant looking for a servant. Before any child is given to a party who is not the parent of the same, a thorough investigation is made in order to ascertain the purpose for which the child is solicited and the ability or condition of the applicant in supporting the child. When the aim of the applicant is prompted purely by humanitarian intention and that the applicant is in a position to bring up properly the child and gives assurance that the child will be treated as a member of the family and will be given opportunity to complete at least an elementary education, the request for adoption or guardianship is granted.

Request for adoption, after the same has been duly approved by the Secretary of the Interior, is forwarded to a Court of First Instance having jurisdiction over the case. And once the court has favorably resolved the question after a hearing, the child or children solicited as the case may be are given to the applicant. The child thus adopted has come to possess all the rights and privileges including inheritance of property of a natural child. Before a child is finally recommended for adoption, it is placed with the family applying for a certain period of time in order to ascertain the suitability of the home soliciting it and the adaptability of the child to its future and permanent foster parents.

A child placed out of the Orphanage under guardianship is only permitted to stay in a family who gives assurance that the child will be considered and treated as a member of the family; that it will be sent regularly to a public school or to another school accredited by the Government, providing it with all that is necessary for its physical, mental, and moral well-being; that it will not be transferred outside of the actual residence of the family nor will the same minor be placed under the custody of any other person; and that all expenses necessary

for the care and support of the child will be borne by the applicant. Children placed out in this way are supervised frequently in order to see to it that they are treated in accordance with the promises made by parties who solicited for their custody. Once the child is found not receiving the treatment exacted from the applicant on the occasion of his application, the latter is immediately requested to return the child to the Orphanage.

Another way of discharging inmates from the Orphanage is through employment. When inmates become of age or as soon as they have completed their elementary education, suitable work outside of the institution is secured for them. Employment offering opportunities for further study is given preference. After an inmate has reached the age of majority and has completed its elementary education and that it is more or less inclined to actively engage in work of some kind without continuing its studies in any school, it is encouraged to look for an employment or to pursue a certain trade which sufficiently warrants an independent living.

Inmates of the Orphanage who have completed elementary education but have not reached the age of majority are encouraged or are made to take such employment as may be secured for them on part time basis. This gives them opportunity to work their way through the high school. At present, there are two boys, living outside of the institution, who are working their way through the high school and who are directly under the guidance and guardianship of the Orphanage. Other children who because of their size and age are not advisable to be put in regular classes composed of smaller children are employed at day time and are made to study at night schools. In getting employment for minors who are working their way through school, their health is carefully safeguarded allowing them to work only during such limited period of time as not detrimental to their health and growth.

IV. CARE AND HEALTH

To make the Orphanage an attractive and comfortable home for such orphanaged and destitute children that may be admitted to its care, only internal rules and regulations that are very essential in maintaining good order and discipline among the inmates are being enforced. The children are left to act as freely as possible and in accordance with their wishes not contrary to order and discipline in the institution very much in the same way as they do while at their natural homes.

The spirit of individuality and self-respect and the development of such virtues as are essential to the behavior of a person of good breeding are inculcated in the minds of the inmates. An inmate above 5 years of age is made to keep under its immediate care all the necessary supplies for its daily use and comfort. The supplies issued consist of clothings, towels, tooth-brush, mat, pillow, blanket, a wooden-box or trunk wherein it keeps its belongings, and others needed for its comfort.

Inmates are grouped in dormitories according to size, age, and school attainment. Infants taken care of in the institution are quartered in one of the rooms in the building used as hospital. There are four dormitories in the Orphanage, one for big boys, one for big girls, one for small boys and another for small girls. Each dormitory is under the management of a person who can sympathize with children and who sees to it that inmates take their daily bath, clean their teeth, keep their clothes in order and change them as often as is necessary for a good health, and attends to many other matters affecting the comfort of the children.

Upon admission, a physical examination is given to an inmate in order to prevent the introduction of infectious and contagious diseases to the Orphanage, and in order also to check a faulty development in the newcomer by applying such necessary cure to a disease when present, which might develop a serious obstacle to the normal growth and development of the child when allowed to follow its course. The examination is conducted by the attending physician with the help of trained nurses. In case the newly admitted member of the Orphanage is discovered to be suffering from a contagious disease, he is placed under treatment in an isolated place or in a hospital outside of the institution until he is fully recovered from the disease or until his stay with the old inmates does not any longer endanger their health in the institution.

The attending physician who goes to the institution daily to give such treatment as is necessary in order to insure good health, does not only look after the cure of ailments from which children might be suffering, but he also takes such precaution as to prevent the development and spread of any disease among the inmates in the institution. For the care and treatment of non-communicable diseases, there is operated in the Orphanage a hospital with two attending trained nurses. In this hospital where emergency and other minor operations are performed, there is a laboratory where the examination of blood, urine, and

feces is done. Communicable diseases are taken to hospitals outside of the Orphanage.

There is also employed a dentist who is looking after the hygiene of the teeth. He goes to the Orphanage twice a week to make treatment and to record periodically the conditions of the teeth of the inmates as the result of his examinations and inspections.

From time to time, generally once a month, the inmates of the Orphanage are weighed, record of which is kept. This is used as indicator to detect lack of nourishment or decline of health. Whenever loss of weight is detected, measures to find out the cause is adopted and necessary remedies are applied. Under-nourished or mal-nourished children commonly in evidence among those who are newly admitted, soon become normal. A balance diet prescribed by a competent physician is largely responsible for the correction of this defect. Height and other measurement are taken and recorded quarterly.

V. EDUCATION

For the education of the inmates in the Orphanage there is operated a complete elementary school consisting of from the first to the seventh grade, inclusive. The educational program adopted is similar to the one used in the Bureau of Education. The subjects taught are the same as those prescribed in the public schools.

The aim in academic training is to furnish pupils in primary grades with necessary tools whereby they would be able to read, write, and master the fundamentals of numbers so that in their relation with other people, they could intelligently safeguard their own interest. When one knows how to read, write, and count he cannot be fooled easily in the transaction of his daily affairs. The aim in the intermediate grades is to develop a class above the common mass through whose own individual effort and self-study leaders in localities are developed.

Due to lack of facilities, there are no industrial courses given which are of commercial value, except sewing for the girls. Industrial courses prescribed in the Orphanage School are mostly those connected with the regular operation of the institution. However, boys are taught useful and practical house work in addition to opportunities given them to select a trade in carpentry, gardening, automobile driving, weaving, and barbering. Girls are trained to be good housekeepers and efficient seamstresses.

In the work in the Orphanage, there is observed among the inmates a fair and natural division of labor. The boys look after the garden and grounds, do the carpentry work and what little machinery work there is; while the girls attend to the washing and sewing of clothes, the cleaning of the dishes, and the setting of tables. In connection with the tables, the idea of doing away with the deadly and dismal uniformity is evident, which too often is the hall mark of the dining rooms of institutions of this kind. The tables are not set in long rows but they are arranged here and there very much in the same way as in hotels and restaurants.

Children in the Orphanage are encouraged in the acquisition of that very valuable characteristic—thrift. The money the boys and girls are enabled to save by doing extra work, is deposited in the Savings Bank. Out of this money saved, some of the big boys and girls—those of more mature years—insist on buying their own clothes. This shows a most commendable spirit of independence and fosters that feeling of making their own way and paying for their own things.

Physical training is another feature of the school work which is given due attention. Through play, calisthenics, military drills, and group games, children are trained to develop good physique. They are grouped into different units for purposes of competing in physical contests. Such training activities as running, jumping, indoor base-ball, boxing, and other form of athletics adopted in the public schools are indulged in.

In educating and training the children in the Orphanage, the work is not confined to academic development, industrial training and athletic activities only as the religious aspect of education is also given consideration. The Young Men's Christian Association is allowed twice a month to conduct religious teachings in the Orphanage. Likewise Roman Catholic workers are also permitted to conduct religious exercises twice a month. Both are however allowed to teach only general principles of religion without permitting them to indulge in the glorification of one sect at the expense of another. In other words they were authorized to conduct religious teachings in the Orphanage with the understanding that should they assail one another, the authority given them will be withdrawn. These religious teachings are being conducted on Sundays. The first and third Sundays are used by the Young Men's Christian Association, while the second and fourth are given to the Jesuits. Children are not compelled to attend these religious instructions, but find it convenient and possibly enjoyable to be present at

both. Almost without any exception, all of the children attend one as well as the other. The spirit of tolerance is manifest.

VI. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A general visiting day is held in the morning of the first Sunday of each month. Parents, if any are living, relatives and friends of the inmates come at this time because they are sure to find in the Orphanage the boys and girls whom they wish to visit.

Children in the Orphanage particularly the big boys are permitted to go out for a walk or a call on some friends and relatives at any time provided in doing so school and other work in the institution is not interfered with. Girls are allowed to go out only when they are accompanied by responsible persons or when they are in a group, chaperoned by a more mature girl. During the time of epidemics this practice is however restricted.

In connection with their school work the children have organized a literary society which promotes literary and musical activities.

Moving picture performances are often held in the Orphanage. For this purpose the institution has secured an apparatus. Film houses in the city have always been generous and kind to the orphans and have been loaning and continue to furnish to the Orphanage the free use of their films.

From time to time the inmates of the Orphanage are taken to attend theatrical performances. It is indeed gratifying that they have always been welcomed to enjoy entertainment free of charge at any theater and other amusement centers.

Through the generosity of Manila merchants, children in the Orphanage never failed to receive presents from Santa Claus. All kinds of donations are freely given to them. Toys and things pleasing to the palate are always in plenty during Christmas.

VII. AFTER-CARE

Children placed out are constantly supervised in order to insure good treatment and thoughtful consideration on the part of those who became their guardians and who are required to report from time to time about the conditions of their wards. Visits to the homes of families who got them out of the institutions and direct or indirect investigations of their conditions are made and recorded. The visits are made at least once every six months and the supervision is kept for a period of not less than five years following the date of dismissal especially in the case of minors.

The Public Welfare Commissioner,
P. O. Box No. 1474, Manila, P. I.

of years of age, respectively, with the principal purpose of having as ... member ... of family under the following conditions:

2. That will report to the Public Welfare Commissioner the condition of the said minor whenever required by the said Commissioner.

4. That will not transfer said minor outside of actual residence, nor will place under the custody of any other person.

In witness whereof, have hereunto set hand ... this
..... day of, 192....

Applicants:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Age $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{male} \\ \text{female} \end{array} \right\}$. Occupation

Address

The railroad station nearest to residence is
 have servants. The other members of
 family are

State what properties you possess, where, and the value:

Give names of three responsible persons who know you and can give information about you:

APPLICATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF _____

The Public Welfare Commissioner.

P. O. Box No. 1474, Manila, P. I.

SIR:, the undersigned ... appl for the adoption of

of years of age, respectively, before a court
of justice and give assurance to comply with the following conditions
before application is acted upon by the court:

1. That will keep the applied for in our custody, during such probational period as the Public Welfare Commissioner may fix, to determine the suitability of our home as well as the desirability of the to

2. That will send regularly to a public school or to another school accredited by the Government, providing with all that is necessary for physical, mental, and moral well-being.

3. That will not transfer said minor outside of actual residence, nor will place under the custody of any other person.

4. That will pay for all of the expenses that might be occasioned for the transfer of said minor and of those of the person who may accompany from the institution where now living to residence, including those for return to said institution when for some justifiable reason it is not convenient for to adopt, or when it is thus ordered by the Public Welfare Commissioner.

In witness whereof, have hereunto set hand this
..... day of, 192....

Witnesses:

Applicants:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT AND BY THE APPLICANT

Age { male
female } . Occupation

Religion residence is about
meters from the school.

Address

The railroad station nearest to residence is
 have servants. The other members of
 family are

State what properties you possess, where, and the value:

.....
.....
.....

Give names of three responsible persons who know you and can give information about you:

.....
.....
.....



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